

ILLINOIS A PIONEER IN AIDING THE
BLIND

Brader, Georgia M.

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VISUAL AID PROGRAMS REVIEWED AT IWA MEETING

More than 100 persons interested in learning about and discussing the aspects of aid for the blind and others visually handicapped attended a conference recently sponsored by the Illinois Welfare association's Abraham Lincoln district at the Leland hotel in Springfield.

Co-operating in the program, the Illinois Department of Public Welfare and the State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation provided a colorful exhibit. Welfare's included a variety of useful articles made by the blind and a photographic review of the Department's services otherwise in this field. Rehabilitation likewise provided a pictorial outline of its services in restoring handicapped persons to lives of usefulness.

Chief speaker was the Rev. Robert S. Kieser, pastor of the Springfield Fourth Presbyterian church, who has been blind for several years. His topic was, "Adventures in Darkness," wherein he told how he met the challenge of blindness and continued in his ministerial calling.

Other speakers were Leo J. Flood, acting superintendent of the Illinois School for the Blind at Jacksonville; Mrs. Georgia Brader, blind aid program consultant for the Illinois Public Aid Commission; Miss Lillie Mae Rickman of the office of the State Superintendent of Instruction; Earl Knowles, Welfare department instructor for the blind; and Homer F. Nowatski, of the State Rehabilitation Division.

Consistent with the nature of the program, musical entertainment was provided by students from the Illinois School for the Blind. This included the 35-voice Girls Glee club with Mrs. Armeada Zell, ISB voice instructor, serving as accompanist. They sang "Lift Thine Eyes" (Mendelssohn); "Danny Boy" (Weatherly); "Spring Rain" (Gould); "The Big Brown Bear" (Mana-Zucca); "My Heart at Thy Sweet Voice" (Saint-Saens); "Amaryllis" (Parlow); "I Heard You Go By" (Wood); and "When de Banjo Plays" (Wilson).

Dolores Lauf played Torjussen's, "To the Rising Sun", as a piano solo; Joan Weathers sang Vaughn's, "June Is in My Heart," and Gartlan's, "The Lilac Tree"; and Jack Weston appeared in cornet solos, playing Massenet's, "Elegie," and "The French Dance," with Frederick G. Meyers, ISB band and orchestra instructor, accompanying him.

ILLINOIS A PIONEER IN AIDING THE BLIND

By Mrs. Georgia M. Brader

Medical Assistance Consultant
Illinois Public Aid Commission

Following is a resumé of a talk by Mrs. Brader at the recent conference sponsored by the Illinois Welfare association's Abraham Lincoln district in Springfield.—EDITOR.

Human needs cannot be met by money alone, as is indicated by the results of a social characteristic study of Blind Assistance recipients.

Made in August, 1944, the study covered about 5,000 recipients, a little more than half of whom were men. Blindness appears to occur more often among men than women, probably because men are more exposed to industrial and other accidental injuries.

A minimum age requirement of 18 years for blind assistance was in effect at the time of the survey. Only six persons between 18 and 20 years old were receiving such assistance. Of the 5,000 cases, 81 per cent were more than 49 years old, more than a third were more than 60 and half were 65 or more. Recipients tended to live in urban areas—34 per cent in Chicago and 37 per cent in towns of more than 2,500 population. Among the recipients, 31 per cent were married and living with their spouses and in 10 per cent of these cases, the spouse also was blind, while 69 per cent were unmarried or not living with spouse.

Only 15 per cent of the 5,000 were living alone in their own homes while 73 per cent were with relatives and 12 per cent were in other arrangements such as board and room, nursing homes, or the home of a non-relative. About 40 per cent were well-adjusted to their handicap and physically able to leave the home place alone. Another 15 per cent were unable to leave without assistance from a guide. In 32 per cent of the cases, recipients were able to move about outside as

Clarence Seip, Illinois Public Aid Commission superintendent for Macon county and chairman of the IWA district, presided. Assistant Deputy Director Charles Adams of the State Welfare Department, is the district vice-chairman.

well as inside their homes but seldom left. Another five per cent were confined to their homes, but not bedfast; and three per cent were bedfast.

Of the 5,000, only 412 had attended a school for the blind. Most of these were graduates of the Illinois School for the Blind. This was because in most cases, the onset of blindness is in the later years of life and schooling would have been completed. Gainfully employed either in industry or self-employment were 201 recipients, but 544 were reported employable although not working.

A study by Dr. J. R. Fitzgerald, the Commission's state supervising ophthalmologist, of eye examinations of 6,881 persons found to be blind, showed that 88 per cent were permanently blind. Medical or surgical treatment was recommended for 12 per cent, of whom 557 could profit by having cataract surgery. Of the 200

WHAT IS MEANT BY "VISUAL ACUITY"?

Visual acuity of 20/200 means that the individual distinguishes at 20 feet what he should be able to perceive at 200 feet.

The term, "visual field" refers to the side, or traveling vision. If the gaze is fixed on an object dead ahead, the person becomes aware of moving objects approaching from the side or the back before they come into the direct line of sight.

This is the type of vision enabling one to see an automobile approaching from the side and to get out of its way without actually looking at it.

cases undergoing operation, 150 had sufficient vision restored to render them ineligible for assistance.

The exact cause of blindness could not be discovered in half the cases. In many of these, the cause is not known to science. For example, all cases diagnosed as glaucoma, cataract or myopia would be so classified because science has never determined the origin of these. Forty per cent resulted from contraction of some infectious disease. Outstanding are syphilis, trachoma and ophthalmia of the newborn.

Injuries accounted for blindness in 18 per cent of the cases, another 20 per cent were prenatally blind, 17 per cent because of general systemic diseases and 5 per cent from miscellaneous causes, such as tumors, poisoning, etc. It is appalling to reflect that blindness could have been

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GOV. YOUNGDAHL

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visits the Minnesota institutions and whenever he has the opportunity to visit institutions in other states, he does so."

The visitors were conducted on the tour by Dr. George A. Wiltrakis, Welfare Department deputy director of medical and surgical service, Edward J. Lonergan, deputy director of public relations, Dr. Alfred P. Bay, Manteno hospital superintendent, and Dr. Richard J. Graff, Peoria State hospital superintendent, who is a native of Minnesota.

A wide variety of wards were visited and various types of treatment observed. The guests expressed particular interest in the varied program of occupational and recreational activities which are offered to patients too ill to be engaged in industry or other more socializing pursuits.

They visited the patients' library, the occupational laboratory and classrooms, the commissary and beauty shop. Governor Youngdahl paid particular attention to the rhythm band and folk dancing. In the afternoon, he observed a mixed patient activity in the amusement hall, the program including ball-room dancing, basketball, bowling and table games.

Demonstrating Wisconsin's continuing interest in learning more about Illinois' methods, five mental hospital attendants from that state were assigned to a week of study at Manteno through the co-operation of the Illinois Department of Public Welfare. Under the arrangement, the group was to be succeeded by five other attendants for a similar period of study.

SHERIDAN DORM BEGUN

Fair weather lent impetus to construction of a new dormitory and heating plant at the Sheridan branch of the Illinois Training School for Boys at St. Charles.

The Federal Constructors of Chicago, awarded the general contract, established an office on the grounds half a mile south of the institution early in April and began moving in their equipment at that time.

* * * * *

DIXON STAGES REVUE

Nearly 50 patients took part in a gay musical, "Spring Follies," staged at matinee and evening performances recently in the Dixon State hospital amusement hall. It was arranged by the recreation department and included solo and choral numbers.

ST. CLAIR

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you as parents and (the probationer) sincerely endeavor to live up to the conditions of probation, your child will grow to be a credit to society, to you and to himself/herself."

"In the past," Judge Dreman continued, "a number of parents, some of them foreign-born and confused by court procedure, some of them illiterate, and some of them merely evasive or trying to find excuses for improper supervision during probation,

four housemothers, one housefather and a laundress. Health supervision is continuing and alert, being provided by the county physician, Dr. Louis Heely, and a registered nurse. They visit the place and hold "sick call" daily; and are "on call" at all times.

On entry, each child receives a complete physical examination and a blood test and is immunized against diphtheria, typhoid, whooping cough and measles.

Schooling of dependents at the



TOUR—Official visitors are not infrequent around St. Clair County's Detention home. Here, Supt. Clem E. Spinnenweber, left, points to repair work completed on the home while the group stands at the front door of the superintendent's residence. Others, left to right, are: County Judge C. C. Dreman; W. B. Schaumleffel, chairman of the county board of supervisors' detention home committee; Irvin G. Cox, committee member; Howard C. Sanders, State Welfare department regional representative from East St. Louis; Edward L. Parker, committee member; and E. H. Buchmann, Welfare department regional supervisor of youth and community service.

have protested that they didn't know exactly what the court expected of them. This form takes care of that. It is read to them, explained to them, signed by them."

In the cases of dependent children, while a hearing also is required, no preliminary conference is specified as between the probation and arresting officers. Strenuous efforts are made by the court to place such children in foster homes without delay and usually this is accomplished within a month. Rarely are children kept in the detention home more than 60 days, Judge Dreman pointed out.

"We make it plain that this is a detention home, not a dumping place or foster home," he emphasized.

Superintendent and matron of the home are Mr. and Mrs. Clem E. Spinnenweber who are assisted by

home is not neglected, Protestants attending a public school nearby and Catholic children going to a parochial school in the vicinity. While no schooling has been possible for delinquents being detained at the home, efforts are being made to have an instructor assigned by the East St. Louis Board of Education to take care of this phase.

Religious instruction is handled similarly, dependent Catholic children going to their church. Protestant services are conducted by a minister at the home for the remaining dependents and the delinquents as well.

No racial segregation is permitted at the place. Recently the home was approved by federal authorities of the Eastern Illinois District court as a

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hold-over for juvenile federal prisoners, for which the federal government reimburses the county.

A year ago, at the request of Howard C. Sanders, State Welfare Department Region VI representative, St. Clair and Madison counties entered into an agreement for the temporary placement of Madison county juvenile dependents and delinquents in the detention home since Madison county has no such facilities. Madison county pays its neighboring county for this service.

In the last fiscal year—Dec. 1, 1946-Nov. 30, 1947—the total daily average attendance of children in the home was 379 and the year's daily average was 32.

"We are especially grateful for the fine co-operation we receive from the county supervisors and their Detention home committee," said Judge Dreman. "They are most helpful and understanding of our needs. The committee frequently visits and inspects the place and co-operate fully in bringing about appropriations for the proper administration and maintenance of the home."

William B. Schaumleffel is chairman of the committee, other members of which are Irvin G. Cox and Edward L. Parker.

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prevented in almost 60 per cent of these cases since we know how to treat infectious diseases and certainly most accidents can be prevented.

Causes of blindness vary with the age group. Usually, younger persons are blinded from congenital causes, injuries and the childhood infectious diseases. The older age groups are blinded because of syphilis, cataracts, glaucoma and general systemic diseases.

Medical science has little information regarding blindness of prenatal origin. No preventive methods have been evolved. While better medical care has made it possible to save many premature infants, often they are blind because of a mal-development of the optic nerves. Counseling service for parents of these and other blind infants undoubtedly will be needed. Pre-school blind children's parents in downstate Illinois do not have the services of a home counselor available because the one worker's service is confined to Chicago.

These studies indicate some of the ways in which Illinois can further improve services to the blind. We need to delete again the age requirement

from the Blind Assistance Act (this was restored in 1947), making it possible to give assistance to any needy blind person regardless of age.

Since one study showed that only 42 per cent of the blind were sufficiently adjusted to their handicap to enable them to leave the home place alone, undoubtedly there are many unmet needs for special services that cannot be provided within the present maximum grant of \$50 a month. For example, some need guide service which cannot now be provided because the other living needs are \$50 or more. As a staff, we need more skill and training in understanding and handling the emotional and other problems found among the blind assistance group.

The fact that a large number of blind persons were unable to leave their home place alone, or did not try to do so indicates a need for more adjustment services. Coverage by home teachers should be still better and service for the individual should be more intensified.

Many of these people in the older age group would not be employable in competitive industries. They need something constructive to do either in a sheltered workshop or at home. Sheltered workshops and a home industry program are needed in downstate Illinois. These services are available in Chicago from public and private agencies. The fairly large group of employable blind persons who are not working indicates that

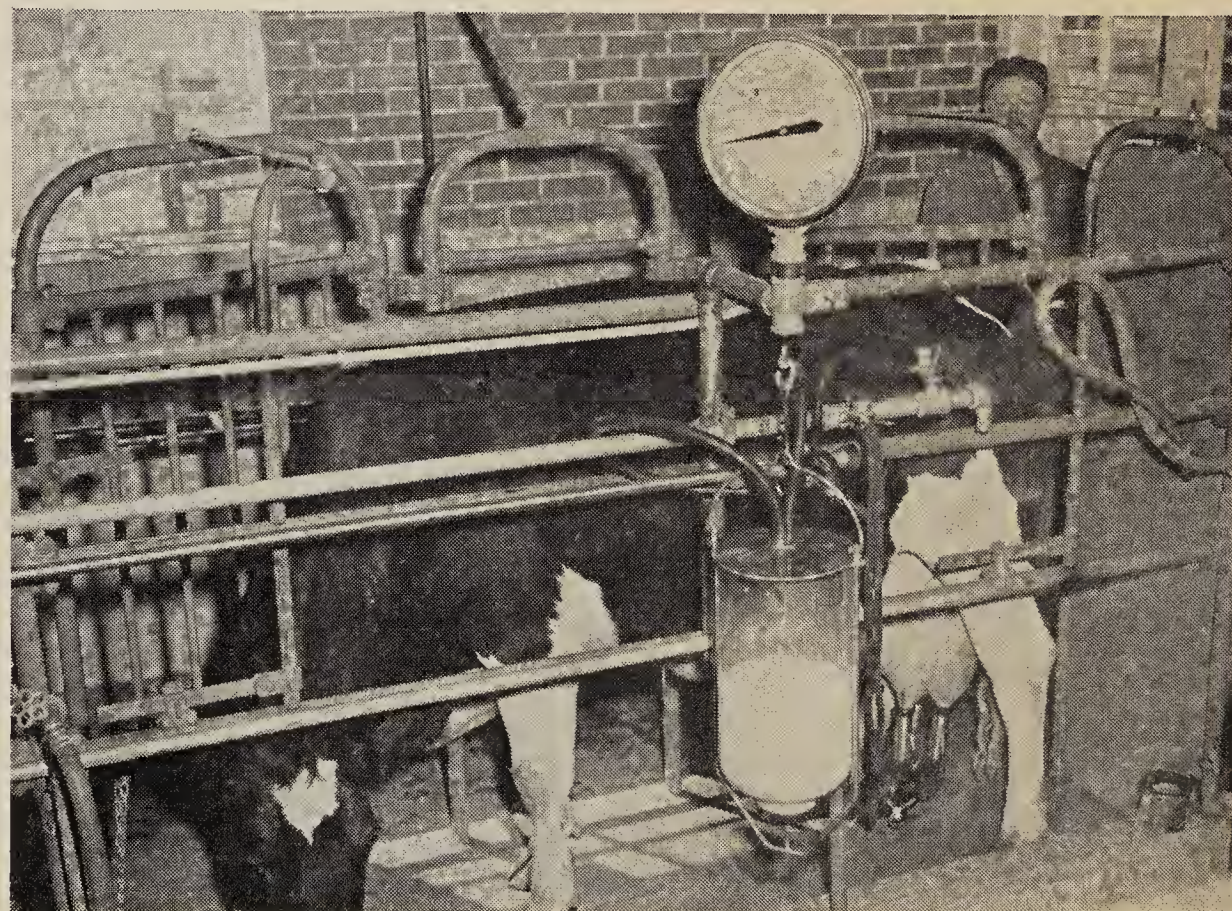
more vocational re-training and job placement services are needed.

Illinois provided assistance to the needy blind in 1903. Known as the Blind Pension, it was a flat \$30 a month, payable by county clerks and financed on a 50-50 basis by the state and the counties. The law required that the applicant be examined by a physician but neither specified that the physician be qualified to treat eye diseases nor defined blindness. United States citizenship and ten years' county residence were requirements. No additional assistance for medical or any other type of service that a blind person might need was provided.

The General Assembly in 1943 enacted legislation bringing the present Blind Assistance program into operation. Originally, it provided for state and federal participation on a 50-50 basis up to \$40. Citizenship was not required and the residence requirement was changed to one year in this State. If the applicant resided in Illinois at the time he became blind, the residence requirement is waived.

The age of 18 was fixed as the minimum for eligibility. The law specified that applicants were to be examined by a physician qualified to treat eye diseases and that visual eligibility was to be determined according to the blindness definition adopted by the Illinois Public Aid Commission which was designated as the state agency responsible for ad-

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BOSSIE'S 'PARLOR'—This is one end of Alton State hospital's new "milking parlor" where the most modern equipment has taken over the job of milking the cattle of the institution herd. The dial-indicator is part of a weighing device which keeps tab of each cow's yield. In the total herd of 170, including heifers and bulls, there are 79 milk-producing cows, the daily average being about 330 gallons.

Philippine Doctors Leave for Homes After Staff-Service at Anna Hospital

Their departures approximately a month apart, Drs. Bernabe S. Mendoza and Natividad N. Villalobos, both Filipinos, have rounded out more than a year of study as staff members at Anna State hospital and returned to their native land to carry on their work.



Dr. Natividad N. Villalobos

They aided in the fight to liberate the Philippines and had many narrow escapes during the Japanese occupation. Both came to America to study mental hospital treatment and procedure in Illinois through the assistance of Dr. Andrew Barnai of the Chicago State hospital staff, who met them as a Medical Corps captain while visiting the National Psychopathic hospital in Manila.

Farewell receptions were held in Goodner hall at Anna State hospital for the two doctors just before they took their respective departures. In addition to gifts, each was presented with a special certificate provided by the Department's Public Relations division and bearing the signatures of Governor Dwight H. Green, Director Cassius Poust, Dr. George A. Wiltrakis, deputy director, and Dr. C. D. Nobles, Anna hospital superintendent.

Dr. Nobles presented the certificates on each occasion, the documents attesting to the recipients' outstanding proficiency as physicians and psychiatrists. On behalf of the institution employes, Dr. Mendoza



GOING AWAY—Dr. Bernabe S. Mendoza, Philippine republic, receives special certificate and gifts from Dr. C. D. Nobles, superintendent of Anna State hospital, where Dr. Mendoza spent more than a year as a staff member. Dr. Mendoza and Dr. Natividad N. Villalobos, also of the Philippines, have returned to Manila.

was handed a wristwatch and band and other gifts.

Dr. Mendoza had been the honored guest at a preceding round of dinners, parties, dances and social gatherings. He was regarded by associates at the hospital as a genial friend and an efficient and co-operative worker who was appreciative of any courtesies shown him.

The reception for Dr. Villalobos was held following a dance for patients. In addition to the certificate, she was presented with a wrist watch and gold band on behalf of the staff and her other friends at the hospital and a shell cameo pin from her service associates.

Letters of appreciation were received later at the hospital from the two doctors. Dr. Mendoza wrote, in part:

"Each day of my stay in that institution was pleasant and enjoyable, which I cannot forget. You have all been so good to me. Your friendship is a genuine one and I have come to love each and every one of you. I cannot forget your friendship and this memory I am going to cherish and treasure in my heart for the rest of my life.

"I can say to my people and friends in the Philippines that the American people are really and truly wonderful friends, particularly all my co-workers at the Anna State hospital."

Dr. Villalobos' letter included the following:

"Surely, indeed, you have given

me the best gift and reminder. Each 'tick-tock' of the beautiful watch sends a stimulus to my brain to make me think of you, and an impulse to my heart to make me feel all the time the good will and kindness of my friends I have left behind so far but yet so close to my heart."

Hospital Groups Provide Musical Entertainment

State welfare institution musical organizations believe in sharing the wealth of melody and to this end provide a great deal of harmonious entertainment.

The Lincoln State School & Colony band took part in the Army Day parade in Decatur, about 40 members making the trip aboard the institution bus. They were accompanied by George Treatch, band director, and his assistant, Miss Gertrude Brown.

A 35-voice Girls Glee club from the Illinois School for the Blind, Jacksonville, provided a delightful array of songs at an Illinois Welfare association (Abraham Lincoln district) meeting in Springfield recently. Their accompanist was Mrs. Armeada Zell, ISB voice instructor.

Chicago State hospital's concert orchestra, assisted by the dance band, put on a concert recently at that institution. Lawrence Fascinato conducted under the direction of George Owen. The band also plays regularly for dances at the hospital.

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ministration of the program. Eligibility also was to be determined on the basis of need and the applicant's resources considered in fixing the amount of his grant. The maximum monthly grant was \$40 for needs other than medical care.

The first definition of blindness adopted by the IPAC specified that if the applicant's visual acuity were 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting lenses, or if the visual field did not exceed 20 degrees, he was eligible. In adopting this definition, the IPAC consulted its advisory board on ophthalmology—Drs. Harry S. Gradle, Watson Gailey, Walter Stevenson and Derrick Vail.

After the program had been in operation for two years, the definition was broadened, the age requirement eliminated and the maximum monthly grant raised to \$45, with a provision that if federal matching were increased, the grant could be as much as \$50. The latter was effective in 1946.

It had been found that the previous definition requiring a reduction of the field to a maximum of 20 degrees was inequitable. Persons with 20/200 acuity have lost about 80 per cent of visual efficiency, but they can get about and perform a great many ordinary activities, including many types of work.

The person with a visual field whose maximum diameter is 20 degrees is more greatly handicapped because of the difficulty in getting about. A 20-degree field represents an efficiency of only 10 per cent. Therefore, the definition was changed to give added weight to the loss of visual field and if this has been reduced to 30 per cent, the applicant now is considered eligible. There are other conditions in which the person may have good visual acuity and good visual field, but may still be eligible because of an inability to use or control his vision.

Aside from providing cash help for ordinary living needs, the Blind Assistance program meets the need for medical care, such as physicians' service, hospitalization, drugs, dental care, appliances, nursing or house-keeping service and nursing home care for which there is no monthly maximum on expenditures.

The medical care program has been beneficial in restoring or conserving vision. Vision eligibility examinations often show the need for treatment that restores or conserves the applicant's vision. When eye treatment is indicated, the recipient usually is referred to the Illinois Eye

DIRECTOR SOUGHT FOR ROCKFORD GIRLS HOME

Board members in charge of Forest Hall at Rockford, a Protestant home for girls 13 to 17 years old, are looking for a director to supervise the institution.

Forest Hall was founded in 1946 under auspices of the Winnebago County Big Sisters association and the Rockford Council of Churchwomen. The 10-room dwelling at 405 South Fourth street formerly was a church parsonage. It has a maximum capacity of 10 girls.

Mrs. B. J. Knight, 1302 Boilvin avenue, Rockford, the home's personnel committee chairman, said a full-time housekeeper also is needed at the place. The institution is licensed by the State Welfare Department's division of child welfare.

& Ear Infirmary or the Department of Public Welfare Trachoma clinics where he receives free care. If he prefers, he may choose his own ocular surgeon and have treatment in a local hospital. As a result of this program, about 200 persons have had ocular surgery restoring or improving their vision.

County Department visitors provide a variety of services ranging from writing letters for the blind to helping the recipient get a job, or assisting him in self-employment projects. In one case, the recipient stated his desire to work but he was reluctant to apply for a job. The visitor offered her services, took him to the employment office, interviewed the personnel manager and the recipient soon was at work. It also was necessary for her to help him with arrangements for transportation and guide service to the factory for a time until he learned to find his way.

Recipients often need services requiring definite skills and techniques of a different kind. These are referred to the division for the blind of the Department of Public Welfare, and to the State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Civic groups in many communities offer services for blind persons and these also are used by the County Department visitor.

The division for the blind in the Department of Public Welfare has established the following new services: an adjustment training center, a home counselor for parents of preschool blind children, and a registry of the blind. In addition, the home teacher service has been extended to give better coverage

PATIENTS STAGE REVUE

"Chickasaw Limited Revue," a lively series of dancing, choral, solo and specialty acts, was presented in two performances at 1 and 7:30 p. m. recently by the colored patients at Dixon State hospital. Music for the 18 numbers which made up the show was provided by the hospital orchestra.

In the cast were Maxine Forbes, Elsie Thompson, James Bibbs, Morris Williams, Marie Wilkerson, Donald Johnson, Delores Owens, Charles Goodin, Charlotte Brown, Jessie Branson, Hines Price, Beatrice Bassett, Helen Ardson, Daisy Hall, Shirley Carney, Elsie Drain, Reginald Thomas, Herman Fortune, Clarice Gates, Grace Westley, George Love, Edna Mae Brown, Sam Brown, Ossi Carter, Blanche Grisham, James Thomas and Horace Acey.

HARVEY LONG

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as follows:

Illinois State Penitentiary.....	54
Illinois State Farm.....	14
Cook County Jail.....	23
Chicago House of Correction.....	7
Federal Reformatories.....	6
Federal Penitentiaries.....	2
Wisconsin Penitentiary.....	1
Louisiana Penitentiary.....	1
Idaho Penitentiary.....	1
California Vocational Institution....	1
California School of Industry.....	1
Iowa Reformatory.....	2
Peoria County Jail.....	1
Rock Island County Jail.....	2
Thayer County Jail, Nebraska.....	1
Winnebago County Jail.....	1
Training School for Boys, Oklahoma.	1
National Training School.....	1
Iowa Training School.....	1

A high percentage of satisfactory terminations are instances where parolees are making a satisfactory adjustment in the armed services. In 1944-5, 153 out of 367 satisfactorily terminated cases were enlistees. Surprisingly enough, even in 1946-47 there were 134 in the military services out of 359 satisfactory terminations. These were distributed as follows:

U. S. Army.....	116
U. S. Marines.....	7
U. S. Navy.....	9
Maritime Service.....	2

During the five-year period covered in this analysis, the Division made 2,904 new community placements of boys from the Training School. Of this number, 464 were placed in foster homes. The yearly range was from 16 per cent to 20 per cent placed in foster homes. The ratios of "new placements" to "returns to the school for further training" were about the same for the boys placed in foster homes as for the others placed in the homes of relatives.

ISTSB TEACHERS FORM AID GROUP

Its objective to promote the welfare and educational interest of socially maladjusted or dependent children, a recently formed Illinois State Training School for Boys Education association is a going organization at that institution.

A year in the process of taking shape, the association has just been accepted for affiliation with the National Education association with headquarters in Washington, D. C.

Purposes of this organization of academic teachers at the Training School are set forth in the association constitution as follows: "... to promote the welfare and educational interest of socially maladjusted and/or dependent children; to provide an opportunity for a continuous study of the problems of the teaching profession; to foster good fellowship and professional ethics among its members; to establish co-operation between the academic department and the community; and to form a representative body which will function effectively through and with the County, Division, State and National Education associations."

Membership is open to all properly certified teachers, principals and supervisors of the ISTSB. Honorary memberships are open to persons not regularly engaged in public education but who have rendered meritorious service in the cause of education.

The first meeting looking to organizing such an association at ISTSB was held Feb. 11, 1947, but no definite steps were taken until another meeting was held June 26, 1947. Miss Helen Kaiser was named temporary chairman and Mrs. Marie Smithson, temporary secretary.

They were authorized to proceed in gathering information about the proper steps to be taken for forming a local education association group. Writing to Irving F. Pearson, Springfield, executive secretary of the Illinois Education association, they obtained the required data.

Exactly a year from the date of the initial gathering, the first meeting with a report for definite organization was held last Feb. 11. On March 4, the constitution committee reported and the teachers studied the proposed instrument, amended it and adopted it in its present form March 5.

Permanent officers then chosen are: John J. Pomazal, president; Miss Kaiser, vice president; Mrs.



LEAD ISTSB TEACHERS GROUP—These are the officers and executive board members of the Illinois State Training School for Boys Education association, formed to promote the welfare and educational interest of socially maladjusted or dependent children. Seated, left to right: Edmund Garlock, board member; Miss Helen L. Kaiser, vice president; Mrs. Marie Smithson, secretary. Standing: Laverne McMillion, board member; John J. Pomazal, president; Mrs. Marion Stiers, board member; Mrs. Mabel Moore, treasurer.

Smithson, secretary; Mrs. Mabel Moore, treasurer. Subsequently, the executive board was elected to include Edmund Garlock, Mrs. Marion Stiers and Laverne McMillion.

The group's first activity was last March 16 when it had as guests at a buffet luncheon, visitors from the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction — Dick Edmondson, Ray Graham, J. E. Hill, H. R. Damisch, John A. Beaumont, C. A. Michelman, Edward Claude and Fred Swan. Also present were Harvey L. Long, superintendent, and Clifford Owen, both from the State Welfare Department's division of supervision of delinquents, Col. J. Clifford Hodgkin, ISTSB superintendent and his assistant, Arthur E. Wright, the Rev. Walter H. Ewing, Protestant chaplain, and E. E. McCoy, Kane county superintendent of schools.

* * * * *

MENTAL ILLS DISCUSSED

"Care of the Mentally Ill," was the subject discussed by Dr. Isadore Spinka, Chicago State hospital clinical director, in a talk at a meeting of the Triangle Lions club of Chicago recently.

Prevalence and incidence of mental illness was emphasized with a view to enlightening the public and creating a more tolerant understanding of the affliction. Dr. Spinka also scotched misconceptions about mental illness, such as stigma and heredity.

AUDIO-VISUAL SYSTEM USED AT ST. CHARLES

An audio-visual educational system has been introduced in the academic classrooms at the Illinois Training School for Boys at St. Charles with marked success.

Moving pictures and slides are used in connection with ordinary teaching methods so that the pupils see as well as hear expositions on various classroom subjects. The institution was one of the first schools in that area of the state to adopt this new and modern system, Col. J. Clifford Hodgkin, ISTSB superintendent pointed out.

"Teaching a child to learn and to remember is a less difficult job," Colonel Hodgkin said, "if the subject is presented in story form. The audio-visual system has proved so successful to us that we plan to bring it into all our classrooms."

For the experimental stages in the system, the Northern Illinois State Teachers college at DeKalb lent the school 39 social study films. These included three art films, five musical films, 11 animal life films and four child psychology films.

* * * * *

There is no way by which men can approach nearer to the gods than by contributing to the welfare of fellow creatures.—Cicero.

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